

I have two specimens from my former garden at Blackheath, dated 7.viii.1961 and 5.vi.1967, probably found at rest on a fence though this is uncertain; and a third which is defective and dateless. The first was determined by my late friend E.C.M. d'Assis Fonseca (along with some hundreds of other flies).

The lygaeid bugs *Drymus sylvaticus* (F.), *Scolopostethus affinis* (Schilling) and *S. thomsoni* Reuter were quite common in the garden, where one or more of them were very likely the host(s) of *C. atra*.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Updates for three species of moth in south-west Scotland

Bembecia muscaeformis (Esper) Thrift Clearwing

In 1895, Colvend, Kirkcudbrightshire, was reported to be the first and chief Scottish locality for this local insect (McDiarmid, 1895. *Handbook of the United Parishes of Colvend and Southwick*. J. Maxwell and Son, Dumfries). In the absence of further records Heath and Emmet (1985. *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 2. pp. 386-387. Harley Books, Colchester) suggested that Thrift Clearwing "could well await rediscovery on coasts of western Scotland". This has proved to be the case, but their suggestion that the moth flies in late-June and throughout July is not entirely helpful, as moths were also found in early June (and the only confirmed record for Cumbria, for St Bees Head, is dated "May 1919"). Careful searching has revealed that the moth still thrives at Colvend and indeed all along the rocky coast of Galloway, being quite numerous under suitable conditions. It prefers warm, calm, sunny conditions, being most often seen from about 10.00 to 13.00 hours, though one was seen as early as 08.30 hours and another as late as 16.00 hours. A few were seen on very windy days in sheltered sunny banks. Recent records are summarised as follows:

VC73 Kirkcudbrightshire – two at Port O'Warren, Colvend (NX 865527) 23.vi.1996; three at Gutchers' Isle (NX 871529) 23.vi.1996; one at Almorness (NX 839525) 15.vi.1997; one at Meikle Ross (NX 654435) 25.vi.1997; three at Meikle Ross (NX 654435) 22.vi.1996; one at Sandgreen (NX 575520) 29.vi.1995.

VC74 Wigtownshire – two at Isle of Whithorn (NX 481360 and NX 479364) 28.vi.1998; six at Mull of Galloway (NX 157304) 15.vi.1997; ten at West Tarbert (NX 136309) 4.vi.1997; two at Bellouie (NX 132311) 4.vi.1997; one at Clanyard Bay (NX 102382) 20.vi.1998; two at Lennans (NX 095390) on 21.vi.1998; one at Dunskey (NX 004532) 15.vii.1996; one at Dally Bay (NW 964695) on 13.vi.1999.

Atolmis rubricollis (L.) Red-necked Footman

This species was recorded near Dumfries in the 1860s (Lenonn, 1863. *Trans. Dumfries and Galloway Nat. Hist. & Antiquarian Soc.* 1862-63, pp. 53-61) and was rediscovered near Dalbeattie on 13 June 1992. In more recent years it has proved to be widespread and sometimes numerous in commercial forestry plantations from Lochar Moss to Auchencairn. It can be seen flying in sunshine near the tops of trees,

but is more likely to be recorded when it descends to lower vegetation or to tracks and paths. One was recorded in a spider's web, more than twenty were found drowned in a trackside ditch, and two dozen were seen around willow bushes at the edge of a loch where the water surface was littered with dead or struggling moths. Recent records are as follows:

VC72 Dumfriesshire – three at Cockpool Moss (NY 062679) 17.vii.1996; 50-55 at Cockpool (NY 0667) 1.vi.1997; one near Stanhope (NY 081675) 23.vi.1997; 22 at Racks Moss (NY 033736) 4.vii.1998.

VC73 Kirkcudbrightshire – 15 at Lochaber (NX 9370) 8.vi.1997 and many more in 1998 (Jessie MacKay, *pers. comm.*); one at Carruchan (NX 946733) 5.vii.1998; one at Southwick (NX 926568) 11.vii.1996; four at Plantain Loch, Dalbeattie (NX 8460) 13.vi.1992; six at Almorness (NX 829529) 15.vi.1997; one at White Horse Bay (NX 839525) 15.vi.1997; one at Screel (NX 795549) 4.vii.1996 and 9.vii.1996; 24 at Loch Mackie (NX 808488) 9.vii.1996; one at Cally, Gatehouse of Fleet (NX 598546) on 16.vi.1999.

VC74 Wigtownshire – one at Castle Loch, Lochmaben (NY 084815) on 18.vi.1999.

Apamea scolopacina (Esper) Slender Brindle

This species was first recorded in Scotland at Castle Loch Local Nature Reserve, Lochmaben, on 29 July 1995, with first specimens taken the following year at Kirkton and Drumlanrig. It has subsequently been recorded in a number of localities in Annandale and Nithsdale, and at two localities in Kirkcudbrightshire. The records are:

VC72 Dumfriesshire – one at Castle Loch, Lochmaben (NY 087812) 29.vii.1995; one at Kirkton (NX 972821) 11.vii.1996; one at Drumlanrig Castle (NX 851993) 14.vii.1996; one at Durisdeer mill (NS 881036) 2.vii.1997; one at Lockerbie Wildlife Trust Reserve, Lockerbie (NY 126806) 29.vii.1997.

VC73 Kirkcudbrightshire – four single records at Cally, Gatehouse of Fleet (NX 598546) 26.vii.1997, 29.vii.1997, 1.viii.1997, 8.viii.1997; one at Almorness (NX 831525) 26.vii.1998; three at Cally, Gatehouse of Fleet (NX 598546) on 2.viii.1999 and two here on 5.vii.1999.

VC74 Wigtownshire – one at Cattle Loch, Lochmaben (NY 087812) on 31.vii.1999; one at Kirkton (NX 972821) on 3.viii.1999.

South of the border, there are old records for the Carlisle area where it is now recorded annually in small numbers. The Scottish records are, therefore, likely to represent an increase in observer effort rather than a sudden northward expansion. Even so, it would be worth keeping an eye out for this species in more northerly localities.

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